THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The inland waterways so far declared by the Central Government as National Waterways are on the Ganga (Haldia-Allahabad), the Brahamputra (Bangladesh Border-Sadiya) and the West Coast Canal. These National Waterways are developed and maintained by the Government of India through Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for shipping and navigation. Development of the other inland waterways in the responsibility of concerned State Governments. Several schemes to develop and maintain the National Waterways have been undertaken by the IWAI in order to make them adequately operational in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Inland Waterways Authority of India have schemes to adequately develop the existing National Waterways. It is plannned to declare a few more waterways as National Waterways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(e) The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has prepared Policy/Strategy for the Development of Inland Waterways in the country, indicating the action plan for implementation on short-term and long-term basis. Under the short-term action plan, schemes will be undertaken to develop the National Waterways on the Ganga and the Brahamputra for 2 m. depth and to provide the navigable channel for atleast 300 days in a year. The West Coast Canal will also have a navigable depth of 2 m. as well as necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigable aids, etc. It is also planned to declare a few more waterways as National Waterways. Under the long-term action plan, depth of the navigable channel will be increased and facilities such as terminals, night navigational aids, etc., will also be improved on the existing National Waterways.

Development of Highways

576. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a total network of national highways of 34,058 kms. out of which only 4,000 kms. has been added during the last 14 years;

(b) if so, what progress has been made till date towards four laning of 15,000 kms. of national highways and construction of 10,000 kms. of express ways connecting all the major metros and particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) whether his Ministry has been projecting a potential of $25 billion of foreign investment for road development, if so, what is the present requirement and amount likely to be received during 1995-96 by way of foreign investment particularly from the Canadian Consultancy firm ND Lea International Ltd.; and

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 11-2-95 captioned "World Bank derails national roads policy" if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The total network of National Highways as on date is 34,058 kms. About 5,000 kms road length was added to National Highway network since 1-4-1980.

(b) Four laning of about 400 kms. of National Highways has been taken up. Besides construction of 93 kms. length of Expressway has also been taken up.

(c) Development of National Expressway network is estimated to cost around $25 billion. Pending amendment of NH Act, it is too early to indicate the quantum of foreign investments likely to flow during 1995-96.

(d) Yes, Sir. World Bank have offered comments on the draft Policy paper and suggested that India should start small with bridges and urban bypasses and expressways of demonstrably high priority in the beginning.

महत्वपूर्ण शहरों को एक्सप्रेस मार्गों से जोड़ने की योजना

577. **श्री आस मोहम्मद** : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के महत्वपूर्ण शहरों को एक्सप्रेस मार्गों से जोड़ने की कोई योजना बनाई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार इसको कब तक लागू करने का विचार रखती है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर (क) से (ग) सरकार ने महत्वपूर्ण शहरों को एक्सप्रेस मार्गों के माध्यम से आपस में जोड़ने के बारे में अभी तक कोई योजना तैयार नहीं की है। तथापि, सरकार ने कतिपय मार्गों का पता लगाया है जिन्हें एक्सप्रेस मार्गों के समान विकसित किया जाना है। आवश्यकता के अनुसार वर्ष 2015 तक 10,000 कि.मी. एक्सप्रेस मार्गों को चरणबद्ध रूप में विकसित किया जाना है।

Acquisition of land for Development of National Highways

578. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new National Highways or extension of the existing National Highways on which work was taken up during the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the land acquired for the above purpose; and

(c) the cost of acquisition of land and of extension of the highway development works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No new work was taken up and no land acqusition has been sanctioned during the last one year for new National Highways or extension of the existing National Highways declared during the eighth Five Year Plan.

Conversion of petrol ambassador cars into diesel cars

579. DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD.

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conversion of Petrol driven Ambassador cars into Diesel cars is not allowed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this;

(c) when will this prohibition be lifted and conversion of petrol driven Ambassador cars into diesel cars allowed:

(d) whether it is a fact that such conversion is not allowed only because of pressure from a particular manufacturers lobby; and

(e) whether Government are aware that thousands of petrol cars are converted into diesel cars every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. As stipulated in